

sold in this country were sold during the Civil War for the benefit of relief funds for the sick soldiers. Today the pendulum has indeed swung in the other direction, and the seals are now used for soldiers on another fighting line. All the money raised will be spent in California, after the expenses for printing and advertising are paid to the Red Cross.

### TRACHOMA.

I am enclosing a notice which we are this day mailing to the chiefs of the various eye clinics in San Francisco.

Unquestionably there are many physicians practicing in San Francisco who are not aware of the fact that trachoma is one of the reportable diseases. Its importance to the community at large is so great that I can not help but ask your assistance in publishing through the "State Journal" the substance of the enclosed notice and asking the co-operation of all physicians in general practice or engaged in the specialty to report all suspicious as well as verified cases of trachoma to the Board of Health of their respective locality.

California, in spite of its large foreign population, has been comparatively free, so far as children of a school age are concerned, but any negligence on the part of the authorities or physicians will result in a spread of this affliction to at this time will be a procedure of great difficulty within a few years' time.

Thanking you for your co-operation, I am,

Respectfully,  
WILLIAM C. HASSLER.  
Health Officer.

### JAPANESE CAREFUL TO REGISTER ALL BIRTHS.

The registration of births seems to be of more interest to Japanese in California than to the white population, for during the year 1914, in proportion to population, three Japanese births were registered with the California State Board of Health to every white birth. Japanese associations scattered throughout California pay close attention to birth registration, in order that all Japanese children born in California may establish their legal status as American citizens.

It is probable that not more than ninety per cent of white births are registered with the California State Board of Health in accordance with the law. While it is true that many births attended by midwives are not reported, it is probable that the ten per cent of births which are unrecorded are due in a large measure to carelessness and neglect upon the part of physicians. Foreign born parents are generally particular to have the births of their children registered.

The distribution of many fortunes and many a question of property rights have rested solely upon the existence of a birth certificate, yet American citizens are exceedingly careless in attending to this important matter. The registration of a child's birth is its first birthright.

Under the new registration law, a birth certificate must be filed within thirty-six hours after the date of birth. The health officer in cities having a freeholders charter is local registrar, with whom such birth certificates should be filed. The city clerk is the proper official for registration in other cities and incorporated towns, and the county recorder is the registrar for the remainder of each county.

During the year 1914 there were 35,513 children born of white parents in California and 2,874 Japanese children were born in the state during the same year, according to the records of the California State Board of Health.

### BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS.

Los Angeles, Cal., Nov. 16, 1915.

Editor of the California State Journal of Medicine,  
San Francisco, Cal.

Dear Sir:

In the September number of the Journal, there appeared several fairly long editorials concerning the Board of Medical Examiners of the State of California and relating to the Osteopaths. The spirit of these articles not only tended to reflect on the integrity and loyalty of the Board in supporting the best interests of the medical profession in California, but also tended to create an impression that the members of the board were false to their obligations in their administration of medical regulation in the state.

It is to be regretted that the author of these editorials did not avail himself of the opportunity of learning the facts involved, which he could easily have done by a visit to the office of the secretary of the board, situated in the same building as his own, and making a careful study of the matter at issue.

A historical review of the essentials of the several medical laws of California will help to a better understanding of the subject under discussion. Permit me to relate that prior to August 1, 1901, any person holding a diploma from a reputable medical college could obtain a license in California by the registration of the diploma. After the above date until 1907, in order to obtain a physician and surgeon's license, one must have had a degree of M. D., a diploma from a medical college meeting the requirements of the Association of American Medical Colleges for that year, and also pass a written examination before the Board of Medical Examiners. During this period, to obtain an Osteopathic license, the applicant must have been a graduate of an Osteopathic college and must have met the requirements of the Osteopathic Board of Examiners, a separate board. This law (of 1901) specifically prohibited the holder of an Osteopathic certificate from using drugs or practicing major surgery.

The legislature of 1907 repealed all of the existing Medical Practice Acts, and passed a law creating a single composite Board of Medical Examiners for all classes of applicants, and so from 1907 to 1913, all applicants took the same examination in the basic subjects of anatomy, histology, pathology, chemistry, physiology, hygiene, obstetrics, gynecology, bacteriology, and diagnosis. You will note that none were examined in treatment, either medical or surgical, nor in materia medica or therapeutics. There was this difference, however, in the kinds of certificates issued. Applicants having an M. D. degree, and meeting with the requirements of the Association of American Medical Colleges, were granted an unlimited certificate, while the applicants who were graduates of the Osteopathic colleges were granted an Osteopathic certificate.

The legislature of 1913 repealed the foregoing law, and passed the "Avey Bill," which provided, as before, for a single conjoint board, and for the issuing of three classes of certificates, namely: 1, Reciprocity; 2, Physician and Surgeon's, and 3, Drugless Practitioner's certificate. It also provided that certain standards must be met by colleges as to pre-medical requirements, hours of teaching, etc., and that the colleges must be approved by the California State Board, either as a physician and surgeon's college, or as a drugless college.

In June, 1914, the board adopted the "Dr. Alderson Report," which was the majority report of the board's college committee. This report of Dr. Alderson's was a strong and valuable one, and was responsible more than any other measure for

the bringing about of improved college conditions in California. This report recommended that all of the medical colleges in the state, excepting the Pacific College of Osteopathy, the Los Angeles College of Osteopathy and the Pacific Medical College, be approved for a period of one year as physicians' and surgeons' colleges. The first two of the exceptions were approved only as drugless colleges, and the third was not approved even as a drugless college.

A few months after the adoption of this report, the two Osteopathic colleges surrendered their charters, and a new college, the Los Angeles College of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons, was incorporated and chartered. This new college was really a union of the two Osteopathic colleges, and combined all of the students, teachers and equipment into one college. Legally, however, the new college was neither approved nor disapproved by the board, so that formal action by the board was necessary to this end. Of course, the State Medical Board has nothing to do with the granting of charters to educational institutions, this being a function of the administrative officials of the state at large.

In June, 1915, the board adopted the "Dr. Molony Report" of the college committee, which recommended for approval as physicians and surgeons' colleges, the following:

Medical Department of the University of California;

Medical Department of Stanford University;

Medical Department of University of Southern California;

Loma Linda;

Oakland College of Medicine.

Note:—The Hahnemann College of San Francisco, prior to the "Molony Report," went out of existence through absorption by the University of California. A part of the "Molony Report" is as follows:

Supplementary to our letter of June 8th setting forth statements of contemplated improvements or changes in the Osteopathic College of Physicians and Surgeons for the coming year, we wish to offer the following:

That a general renovation of the College, and changes necessary to put into effect the various improvements contemplated, will be undertaken as rapidly as time and money will permit.

#### **Control.**

That the control and ownership will be positively vested in the Osteopathic Association of California through its College Board of Trustees.

#### **Endowment.**

That the endowment, as it becomes available from time to time, will be securely invested in interest bearing securities, and the principal will be left intact.

#### **Advertising.**

All advertising will be in accord with an educational and scientific spirit, and with the idea of co-operating fully with the medical law and the administration thereof.

#### **Credentials.**

Before matriculating any student in any class, we will demand that he present a certificate of the valuation of his credential by the Board or its accredited agents.

#### **Faculty.**

That the faculty will be re-arranged, especial attention being given to the placing of men to teach subjects having a direct relation to each other.

#### **Classes.**

That two classes of under-graduates will be started each year. One in the fall and one in the spring. That the summer vacation time be used only for post-graduate teaching.

#### **Clinics.**

That the amount of bedside, laboratory and out-patient clinical teaching will be increased, so as to utilize the major part of the time of each course. That the college clinics will be re-organized, and a surgical department of minor surgery, of diseases of children, of nervous diseases, of skin and genito-urinary, will be installed. That the Department of Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat will be re-arranged to more suitably handle this work. That the clinical laboratory will be moved to a more suitable location, easily accessible to the

clinical departments, and properly equipped and supervised. That satisfactory case records will be kept of each case, and properly filed and indexed.

#### **Hospital.**

That an effort will be made to encourage the use of the hospital to its capacity, for teaching purposes.

#### **Obstetrics.**

That this department will be carefully organized to the end that each student be given an opportunity to conduct at least six cases during his third and fourth years, and that other experience and demonstration be accorded.

#### **Anatomy.**

The present dissecting room will be adapted exclusively to the laboratory of anatomy, using only six tables. The room will be renovated and put in proper and acceptable condition, and arrangements made to so keep it. That the cadavers be stored and prepared in a separate room. That a satisfactory system of work and quizzing in this laboratory will be maintained, and material undergoing dissection will be properly cared for. That a museum of Osteology or a collection of bones for the use of the students will be started. Said bones being loaned to the students for their use during the study of anatomy.

#### **Physiology.**

A laboratory will be installed containing all apparatus necessary to the giving and maintaining of a modern laboratory course in Physiology. That animals will be used in this work.

#### **Chemistry.**

Provisions will be made to increase the facilities for teaching Physiological Chemistry.

#### **Pharmacology Materia Medica.**

That sufficient equipment to familiarize students with the various drugs, pharmaceutical mixtures, and standard solutions of U. S. P. will be installed. Students will have practical work in this department.

#### **Embryology.**

Lectures on this subject will be supplemented by a satisfactory laboratory course.

#### **Histology and Bacteriology.**

The work in these departments will be systematized. Improved and added facilities will be installed.

#### **Pathology.**

That a museum of Pathology will be started containing properly prepared specimens of various definite pathological conditions, labelled and accompanied by sufficient clinical history to be of teaching value. That post-mortem study will be made a part of the regular work.

#### **Library.**

That a room of sufficient size, adapted to the purpose, will be set aside for library purposes. Library to be outfitted with a well selected number of text and reference books. This library will be accessible to the students at all times. Also that the current literature, in the shape of journals covering the full scope of the progress of the various departments of medicine and allied subjects, will be maintained.

#### **Museum.**

Anything which will be of value and instruction to a student of medicine will be gathered together and placed on exhibition in a room for this purpose. That our students will not be encouraged to take the drugless examination at the end of their second year. That no space in the college building will be given over to the use of any social organization. The rooms now utilized by these societies will be used for teaching purposes.

On the basis of the completion, by December 1, 1915, of this extensive list of improvements and additions to the buildings, faculty and equipment, the Los Angeles College of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons, the California Eclectic College, and the Physicians and Surgeons College of San Francisco, were temporarily approved to December 1, 1915. As these colleges will not graduate anyone prior to this date, the board felt justified and safe in giving them a chance to live by affording them an opportunity to come up to the requirements of the board. The California Eclectic College decided that they were unable to meet these requirements, and suspended. The other two colleges have gone ahead, and at the present time have nearly completed the requirements as outlined in our schedule.

The members of our State Medical Society, and readers of our State Journal, will observe, therefore, that at the present time the medical college situation in California is in excellent shape. Our policy has been one of construction and not of destruction. During the life of the present board,

the number of medical colleges has been decreased by three, and those that still remain are stronger and better equipped for the work they have to do. Every matriculant of 1915, in every approved California medical college, has in his possession a medical student's certificate, issued by the accredited agents of the board after a rigid examination of his credentials, unless such student is the possessor of a college degree. So you see, Mr. Editor, that out of the maze of difficulties that beset the path of the board at the time of its organization, has come system and order, and medical affairs in the state of California are now definitely and satisfactorily regulated, at least to the minds of all fair-minded and law-abiding citizens. And it is the people, and not our society, which after all make the laws, and to ridicule the state board for doing the best constructive work possible, under the law passed by the legislature, would seem almost to be what might be called cheap or tearing down criticism.

The editor seems to find fault with the board because of the fact that the Osteopaths are given an opportunity to qualify for a physician and surgeon's certificate. Inasmuch as the Medical Practice Act, under which we are operating, and which we have sworn to uphold, gives an Osteopath and all others who can meet the requirements of the law this right, the board cannot deny them. To the minds of a number of members, it would appear that the editor has been manifestly unfair in his attitude towards the Board of Medical Examiners ever since its organization, and has taken every opportunity to unfairly criticize the governor and the legislature which fathered the last two Medical Practice Acts. Now, as a matter of fact, anyone conversant with the facts will not deny that the condition of medical licensure and regulation prevailing in California at this time, and due directly to the enforcement of the Avey and Benson bills, are generally satisfactory and a positive advance in the right direction.

The Medical Board has worked early and late, and has grappled with the many problems that confronted it, and has tried to meet every problem fairly and squarely. The results obtained seem to have met with the approval of all parties directly interested and affected in this matter, except the editor of the Journal.

Now, Mr. Editor, the members of the Board of Medical Examiners of California are doing their utmost to advance medical standards, working under a law which they did not pass, and the provisions of which they are trying to enforce to the best of their ability, working, as they must, with a diversified board and meeting conditions in the state as they stand at the present time. They can do nothing revolutionary. Rather their work has to be evolutionary in character.

The board and the members of the board have no apology or regrets to offer for any of its actions, which will all bear the light of day, and regret very much that the columns of the State Journal should have been used in an apparent effort to discredit their work, and to hold the members up to scorn before their fellow members of the state society.

Perfection in medical licensure and regulation is nowhere to be found, and to attain to this perfection, we should all work towards a common patriotic end, and our duty to our profession and our state is not discharged by sitting in our office and calling names, but rather by evincing a spirit of broad-mindedness which will be of real service in the work we have to do.

I have the honor to be very respectfully yours,

WM. R. MOLONY.

Vice-President and Chairman of the College Committee, Board of Medical Examiners of the State of California.

### THE DECEMBER MEETING OF THE STATE BOARD OF HEALTH.

The State Board of Health met in Sacramento on December 4th. The following members were present: Dr. George E. Ebright, president; Dr. Fred F. Gundrum, vice-president; Dr. Adelaide Brown; Dr. Robert A. Peers; Dr. Edward F. Glaser, and Dr. Wilbur A. Sawyer, secretary.

It was decided to hold the January meeting on Saturday, January 8th, as the first Saturday is a legal holiday.

The appointment, previously made by the secretary, of Mr. E. K. Perry, river patrol officer of the city of Sacramento, as inspector of the State Board of Health, without salary, for the purpose of enforcing the stream pollution laws in connection with the Sacramento River above the city of Sacramento, was confirmed.

By formal motion the State Board of Health instructed the secretary to request the proper authorities to prohibit the use of public drinking cups and glasses and roller towels in any of the state buildings, on the ground that they are a menace to public health.

The Board passed a resolution approving the orders on sanitation in canneries, as presented in tentative form by the Industrial Welfare Commission, and expressed a willingness to give further consideration to the regulations when they had been passed in their final form by the Commission after the hearing required by law.

The matter of the enforcement of the newer legislation on milk sanitation was discussed. By formal resolution the Board announced that the provisions of Chapter 742, Statutes of 1915, requiring the grading of milk, tuberculin testing of cows and the pasteurization of milk from cows which have not been tuberculin tested, would be enforced as far as it devolves upon the State Board of Health to do so, and the secretary was instructed to confer with the State Dairy Bureau and the State Veterinarian regarding the enforcement of the law. This law goes into effect October 1st, 1916.

By the following resolution the Board announced its intention to undertake an investigation of hookworm in the mines of California in January.

"Resolved. That the State Board of Health will undertake an investigation of hookworm in the mines of California, in co-operation with the State Industrial Accident Commission, beginning in the latter part of January, 1916, and that a member of the staff of the Bureau of Communicable Diseases will be detailed to represent the Board in the field in connection with this investigation."

Several instances of neglect of local officers to perform their official duties, including the transmission of weekly communicable disease reports as required by law and by the regulations of the State Board of Health, were called to the attention of the Board. The secretary was instructed to consult with the attorney of the Board relative to an effective procedure for bringing this undesirable condition of affairs to an end, and the secretary was empowered to act in the premises.

By formal resolution the Board authorized the secretary to give physicians or health officers, who are remiss in their obligations under the law, an opportunity to appear before the Board and show cause why they should not be prosecuted.

The following resolution was passed:

"Resolved. That any licensed physician in the State of California desiring a Wassermann test in the case of a patient who is a resident of California may obtain same from the Bureau of Communicable Diseases."